Mr. Chairman,

On the issue of withdrawal, Article X, paragraph 1, is self-explanatory. It clearly states that each State Party has the right to withdraw from the Treaty if there is an extraordinary event that may jeopardize the supreme interests or national security. The Party shall give notice of such withdrawal three months in advance to all other States parties and to the UN Security Council.

Nevertheless, Article 70 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties also made clear that such withdrawal does not affect any right, obligation or legal situation of the parties created through the execution of the treaty prior to its termination.

We note that there are a number of proposals, which in principle, requests the UN Security Council to play a bigger role to consider and be empowered to restrain withdrawal or take other actions as deemed necessary.

However, we must be realistic on the dynamism in the decision making process in the UN Security Council, particularly on the application of veto right. Bringing the issue of withdrawal to the Security Council, which is limited in membership and consists of permanent members who have veto rights, would indeed contribute to a biased decision making process. Therefore, it is more appropriate that mechanism of withdrawal be discussed and addressed within the framework of the NPT.

In our view, an emergency meeting of the NPT States parties is more relevant to deal with the case of withdrawal, in which all parties would have the right to speak and to decide on the withdrawal notice. Three months would be sufficient to call for and to prepare such an emergency meeting, since all parties to the NPT are fully represented in their missions in New York. In this regard, the incumbent Chair of the Prepcom of the next Review Conference or the
previous President of the Review Conference can take the initiative to organize such an emergency meeting of NPT States parties if a case of withdrawal arises.

Thank you.